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Standards  
& Testing  
Agency

## Key stage 1

### Information: delivery of key stage 1 test materials this week

We're delivering key stage 1 (KS1) English reading and mathematics test materials to schools this week, as well as modified test orders.

You must not open KS1 test materials until Tuesday 1 May. They must be kept secure until Friday 1 June.

As the KS1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test remains optional in 2018 (and for future years), we will not send schools hard-copy standard versions.

If you haven't received your test materials by Friday 20 April, or if they arrive unsealed or damaged, please contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

Schools will be able to download additional KS1 test materials from Tuesday 1 May from the 'Test materials' section of [NCA tools](#). This includes the KS1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test and modified large print versions, but excludes braille versions. Schools requiring additional braille materials should contact the modified test agency on 0300 303 3019.

Headteachers should read our guidance about checking their delivery and

[keeping materials secure](#). It also includes guidance for schools being used as polling stations in local elections on Thursday 3 May.

## Key stage 2

### Action: be aware of changes to the order of the tests

In autumn last year, we announced that the key stage 2 (KS2) English reading test would be administered on Tuesday of test week, not Monday as in previous years. This was in response to views expressed about the order of the tests from headteachers and teachers during the 2017 primary assessment consultation.

Please ensure that all school staff involved in the administration of the KS2 tests are aware of this change to avoid test packs being opened incorrectly, which can lead to investigations of maladministration. See the 2018 KS2 test dates below.

Date	Subject	Test paper
Monday 14 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling	Paper 1: questions and Paper 2: spelling
Tuesday 15 May	English reading	English reading
Wednesday 16 May	Mathematics	Paper 1: arithmetic and Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday 17 May	Mathematics	Paper 3: reasoning

### Information: notification of schools selected for science sampling tests

We will notify schools selected to participate in the 2018 science sampling tests, by email, on Monday 23 April. As in previous years, a representative sample of pupils will take part, drawn from the national population of pupils at the end of KS2.

Selected schools have a statutory responsibility to participate.

The tests will be administered in the selected schools between Monday 4 June and Friday 15 June. They provide a picture of national performance at the end of the KS2 programme of study for science.

Visit the KS2 [science sampling guidance page](#) on GOV.UK for more information.

## **Reminder: deadline approaching to complete additional time applications**

Please remember to submit any applications for additional time in the 'Access arrangements' section of [NCA tools](#), by the deadline, Monday 23 April.

You should read the application questions in section 3 of the [KS2 access arrangements guidance](#) before starting an application. We've also produced a short video demonstrating how to apply.

Applications should be made by a teacher who has a good knowledge of the relevant pupil's needs and abilities. Applications can't be amended or deleted after submission.

[video](#)

## **Primary assessment**

### **Information: reception baseline assessment and updated accountability arrangements announced**

In response to the 2017 primary assessment consultation, the government announced plans to introduce a statutory reception baseline assessment in autumn 2020.

On Wednesday 11 April, we [announced](#) that our preferred supplier to design and deliver the reception baseline assessment would be the National Foundation for Educational Research. We published [guidance](#) for schools about what the assessment will cover, the development process and how we will measure progress.

We also published revised [accountability arrangements](#) for infant, first, middle and junior schools.

### **Reminder: sign up for our live Facebook Q&A event on 24 April**

Put your questions about test administration, access arrangements and maladministration to our expert panel during our live event at 6pm on Tuesday 24 April.

[Sign up](#) to the Facebook event page and receive a notification when the Q&A is about to start. You can use the discussion tab to post your question in advance. We will try to answer pre-submitted questions during the course of the event.

You can also view the summary of the Q&A, which took place on Thursday 15 March, on our [media and training](#) website.

## Information: pupils' participation in the tests

Headteachers have a statutory duty to ensure that all pupils in their school who are eligible and can sit the tests do so. Headteachers make the final decision about whether it is appropriate for a pupil to take the tests. In all instances, their decision regarding participation is final.

## Information: 'Ramadan: Exams and Tests, 2018' published by ASCL

This year, Ramadan is due to begin on the evening of Tuesday 15 May. The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) has produced an information paper [Ramadan: Exams and Tests, 2018](#). Schools may find the paper useful to inform discussions with pupils and parents about how they will observe Ramadan.

## Information: STA at the Academies Show

STA representatives will be attending the Academies Show on Wednesday 25 April at ExCel, London.

We will be available to answer questions at our stand in the government village throughout the day, so please do drop in.

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